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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

Governor Minner Celebrates Completion of Blue Ball Properties Project

Dover, Del. (Aug. 1, 2008) – Governor Minner joined Kathy Monday, vice president of Customer Product Support and Business Services of AstraZeneca LP, U.S., with officials from the Delaware Economic Development Office, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control today to celebrate the final completion of the Blue Ball Properties Project.

“It was only six years ago that we were here for a groundbreaking ceremony to begin the process of transforming this property into the beautiful and highly-productive complex you see today,” said Governor Ruth Ann Minner. “As we stand here today, we are surrounded by a thriving community that blends residential, commercial and industrial activities consistent with my Livable Delaware Initiative. The Blue Ball Properties Project illustrates what can be done when state agencies work together to create an area with multi-use benefits that will continue for future generations.”

“A decade ago we started this exciting journey to have AstraZeneca move its headquarters to Delaware,” said Senator Tom Carper (D-Del). “AstraZeneca has become not only a leader in biotechnology but also a role model for corporate stewardship and community service. AstraZeneca’s move to Delaware offered many opportunities for the company and our state. Today is a perfect day to celebrate those opportunities with the completion of a true community project uniting issues that are important to all of us—economic development, better roads, open space preservation and historical restoration.”

The Blue Ball Properties Project officially began when DEDO led the state effort to secure the North American Headquarters of AstraZeneca for Delaware. In 1999, DNREC and DelDOT partnered to acquire the land and developed the master plan that included recreational improvements and the new transportation infrastructure.

After months of dialogue and planning with the state, county and community officials, DEDO crafted an incentive package of grants and tax credits totaling \$40.7 million. At the time of relocation, the overall benefit to Delaware was estimated to reach \$50 million.

Today, AstraZeneca contributes \$637 million towards Delaware’s Gross Domestic Product. AstraZeneca is now Delaware’s fifth largest private sector employer and is the second largest contributor of total wages paid to the state.

“The recruitment of AstraZeneca’s North American Headquarters to Delaware has had a transformative effect on Delaware’s economy and quality of life,” said DEDO Director Judy McKinney-Cherry. “The company not only

continues to contribute to Delaware's economic vibrancy through its workforce, but AstraZeneca's philanthropic contributions to Delaware and the region are immeasurable."

The Blue Ball Properties Project also brought improved transportation, public recreation, as well as historical and environmental restoration to the citizens of Delaware.

"For the first time in Delaware, a single project incorporated economic development, public recreation areas, restoration of historic buildings, and environmental enhancements, along with significant transportation improvements," said DelDOT Secretary Carolann Wicks. "Obviously, a project of this magnitude and with this many players has had its share of bumps in the road. But together, our overall mission was to get the public infrastructure improvements designed and constructed within a tight timeframe, while recognizing the special context of this community and the expansion of AstraZeneca's facilities."

The project addressed existing traffic flow and safety concerns, projected traffic generated by new or relocated AstraZeneca employees, recreational needs in the area, historic preservation, stormwater management problems, and community land use concerns. Encompassing approximately 550 acres, the project's total cost of publicly-funded transportation, recreation, historic restoration, and stormwater management improvements was about \$123 million, of which \$105 million was spent on transportation improvements. The major construction projects began in 2002 and were completed earlier this year.

Recreational amenities throughout the Alapocas Run State Park include multi-purpose playing fields, picnic areas, a children's garden, dog park, and the expansion of the Rock Manor golf course. The project also included the restoration of the Blue Ball Dairy Barn, constructed in 1914 as part of the A.I. Dupont Estate, now adaptively renovated for multiple-use by the state parks system.

"When all is said and done, we have created a new and exciting state park that serves as an anchor for the Northern Delaware Greenway," said DNREC Secretary John A. Hughes. "This entire project will enhance the experience of every resident and visitor traversing this area of our state."

"The people from our state agencies, local governments, civic associations, environmental organizations, and local neighborhoods who created the vision for Blue Ball and the AstraZeneca headquarters displayed an extraordinary spirit of cooperation to ensure all voices were heard and a balance of needs was struck. The beautifully designed corridor is a testimony to what we can do when we work together, expressing our views and creating solutions that unify us," said Kathy Monday, vice president of Customer Product Support and Business Services of AstraZeneca.

This press release is also available at <http://dedo.delaware.gov/Newsroom.shtml>.

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